

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04268 131808Z

ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 MCT-02 HA-05
CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01
SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 ACDA-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 /108 W
-----121039 131827Z /45

O R 112205Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4268

DEPT ALSO PASS TO PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: SITREP 12: 11 SEPTEMBER, AFTERNOON

1. FOR PEACE CORPS: PC HEADQUARTERS REPORTS FOLLOWING DISPOSITION
OF PCV'S. PCV'S ON ATLANTIC COAST REMAIN IN PLACE. TEN
PCV'S FROM NORTHERN NICARAGUA ARE CURRENTLY IN TEGUCIGALPA. ONE
PCV CURRENTLY IN BOACO. TWO PCV'S CURRENTLY IN CIUDAD DARIO.
ALL OTHER PCV'S CURRENTLY IN MANGUA.

2. EMB HAS NO FURTHER WORD ON STATUS OF AMCITS IN CHINANDEGA.

3. LABOFF SPOKE WITH MANAGER OF PAN AMERICAN AT GPREP HOURS LOCAL
TIME.; MANGER INFORMED LABOFF THAT EVENING PAN AM FLIGHT HAS
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AGAIN BEEN SUSPENDED TO PERMIT EMPLOYEES TO RETURN HOME PRIOR TO
DARK. SUSPENSION EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL AT LEAST 17 SEPTEMBER.
AIRPORT CONTINUES TO OPERATE, HOWEVER, SOME FLIGHTS ARE CANCELLED.
TACA (SALVADORAN) EVENING FLIGHT TO PANAMA CANCELLED YESTERDAY
AND TODAY. FURTHER CANCELLATIONS APPEAR LIKELY. CURRENTLY,
AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN MANAGUA AND PANAMA IS RESTRICTED TO COPA
AIRLINES.

4. DISTURBANCES: MASAYA CONTINUES TO BE THE SCENE OF FIGHTING AS THE GN HAS LAUNCHED AN OPERATION TO REGAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE CITY. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM ESTELI INDICATE THAT FIGHTING CONTINUES WITH BARRICADES BLOCKING ACCESS TO SOME PARTS OF THE TOWN. IN CHINANDEGA, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE LOOTING OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF A MAJOR SUPERMARKET. THE AIRPORT IS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY INSURGENTS WHO REPORTEDLY DESTROYED SOME PLANES AND CAPTURED OTHERS. THE TOWN IS REPORTEDLY WITHOUT WATER OR ELECTRICITY. IN LEON, BARRICADES ARE REPORTED. EMB HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS OF PERSONS--PRESUMABLY INSURGENTS--GOING HOUSE-TO-HOUSE IN SEARCH OF ARMS AND RECRUITS. EMB HAS RECEIVED TWO SEPARATE REPORTS INDICATING THAT THE SON OF ERENSTO CASTILLO (ONE OF THE "GROUP OF TWELVE") MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED IN STREETFIGHTING IN LEON. NO CASUALTY COUNTS, EITHER OF GN OR CIVILIAN INSURGENTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. FURTHER REPORTING CONTAINED IN DATT'S IR 6 870 0079 78.

5. FINANCIAL: ECON BELIEVES THE PRIVATE SECTOR FACES A MAJOR LIQUIDITY CRISIS. FOREIGN FIRMS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLY WITH GON REQUEST FOR ADVANCE TAX PAYMENTS. SIMILAR REQUESTS WERE MADE LAST DECEMBER. A LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON TO THE NEW EXCHANGE CONTROLS WOULD BE DEVALUATION, BUT ECON HAS NO INFORMATION INDICATING THIS IS BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED. BANK OF AMERICA REPORTS REDUCTION OF ITS STAFF TO 55 PERCENT BY MANAGEMENT REQUEST. TODAY'S SURVEY INDICATED A HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATE AMONG BANIC PERSONNEL.
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6. STRIKE: TODAY'S SURVEY INDICATES THAT THE STRIKE APPEARS TO HAVE RECAPTURED SOME OF ITS STRENGTH. WHILE VERY PROBABLY DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO FEAR, NONETHELESS, SOME FIRMS OPEN ON FRIDAY OR EARLY THIS MORNING WERE CLOSED BY NOON. IN TWO MAJOR SHOPPING CENTERS, ONLY ONE STORE WAS OBSERVED TO BE OPEN. MANY "MARGINAL" ENTERPRISES, SUCH AS SMALL FOOD STORES, REMAINED OPEN, BUT FEW CUSTOMERS WERE NOTED. ALONG THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH HIGHWAY, MORE FIRMS APPEARED CLOSED, BUT SIGNS OF ACTIVITY WERE NOTED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. ONE MAJOR HARDWARE STORE OPENED FOR A FEW HOURS THIS MORNING, BUT CLOSED BY NOON. INDUSTRIALLY, THE STRIKE MAY HAVE RETURNED TO LEVELS NOTED ON THURSDAY. IN THE FREE TRADE ZONE, ALL FIRMS APPEAR TO BE OPERATING NORMALLY.

7. COMMENT: THE GN'S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT AND OUTSIDE MANAGUA, HAS BEEN PLACED IN QUESTION BY THE FSLN ATTACKS WHICH BEGAN SATURDAY EVENING. ALTHOUGH THE GN IS ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY IN REESTABLISHING COMPLETE CONTROL IN SOME CITIES, IT SHOWS NO EVIDENCE THAT ITS INTERNAL COHESION HAS LESSENED. THE CAPITAL REMAINS TENSE, BUT QUIET AND CALM.
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Message Attributes

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